

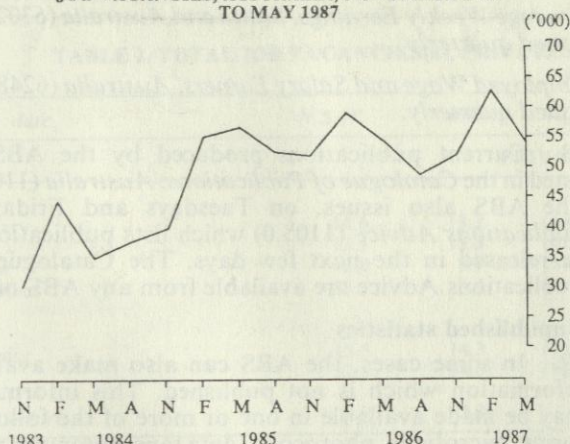


JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1987

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MAIN FEATURES

JOB VACANCIES, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1983 TO MAY 1987



The estimated number of job vacancies in Australia at 15 May 1987 was 53,800. The level of vacancies for both the private and public sectors declined from the record vacancies recorded in February 1987 to approximately the level of vacancies recorded in May 1986.

On 15 May 1987, the proportion of vacancies measured by the survey as being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service was 25.4 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. This publication contains results of a sample survey first introduced in November 1983. The survey, which is conducted by telephone, obtains information from employers on the number of job vacancies as at the third Friday of the middle month of the calendar quarter.

2. To assist in assessing the extent to which vacancies are registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES), respondents in the May surveys each year are asked the number of their job vacancies that is registered as at the survey date. The question is asked only of respondents who report current vacancies. The information enables estimates to be made of the proportion of vacancies *within the scope of the survey* that is registered with the CES.

3. Estimates contained in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained prior to November 1983. Background information about the job vacancies series is provided in *Information Paper: New Statistical Series: Employment, Average Weekly Earnings, Job Vacancies and Overtime* (6256.0) issued on 21 June 1984.

Scope of the survey

4. All vacancies (as defined in paragraph 7) for wage and salary earners are represented in the survey, except those:

- in the Australian permanent defence forces;
- in enterprises primarily engaged in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting;
- in private households employing staff;
- in overseas embassies, consulates, etc.;
- located outside Australia.

Survey design

5. A sample of approximately 4,300 employers is selected from the ABS register of businesses to ensure adequate State and industry representation. The sample is updated each quarter to take account of new businesses, those which have ceased operation and structural changes such as takeovers and mergers. The statistical unit for the survey comprises all activities of an enterprise in a particular State or Territory. Each statistical unit is classified to an industry which reflects the predominant activity of the enterprise in the State or Territory. In a small number of cases where an enterprise has significant employment in more than one industry, a separate statistical unit is created for each industry. The statistical units are stratified by State, industry and size of employment and a simple random sample is selected from each stratum.

Definitions

6. *Reference date* for the survey is the third Friday of the middle month of the quarter. For the most recent survey this was 15 May 1987.

7. A *job vacancy* is a job available for immediate filling on the survey date and for which recruitment action had been taken by the employer. Recruitment action includes efforts to fill vacancies by advertising, by factory notices, by notifying public or private employment agencies or trade unions and by contacting, interviewing or selecting applicants already registered with the enterprise or organisation. Excluded are jobs available only to persons already employed by the enterprise or organisation. This point is particularly relevant to the Australian Public Service and the Public Services of each of the States and the Northern Territory. Also excluded are vacancies:

- which remain unfilled for less than one day's duration;

- (b) to be filled by employees returning from paid or unpaid leave or after industrial disputes;
- (c) not available for immediate filling on the survey date;
- (d) not available within the particular State or Territory to which the return relates;
- (e) for work carried out under contract;
- (f) for which no effort is being made to fill the position.

8. The *job vacancy rate* is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

9. *Sector*. Public sector includes all local government authorities and government departments, agencies and authorities created by, or reporting to the Commonwealth and State Parliaments. All remaining employees are classified as private sector.

10. For the purposes of this survey, *vacancies registered with the CES* are vacancies which employers consider are registered on or before the survey date and which in their opinion have not lapsed prior to the survey date.

Reliability of estimates

11. As the estimates in this publication are based on information relating to a sample of employers rather than a full enumeration, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from all employers. This difference, called *sampling error*, should not be confused with inaccuracy that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents or in processing by ABS; such inaccuracy is referred to as *non-sampling error* and may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or sample. Efforts have been made to reduce non-sampling error by careful design of questionnaires, detailed checking of returns and quality control of processing.

12. The sampling error associated with any estimate can be estimated from the sample results. One measure of sampling error is given by the *standard error* which indicates the degree to which an estimate may vary from the value that would have been obtained from a full enumeration (the 'true' figure). There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate differs from the true value by less than one standard error, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

13. If the standard error of an estimate is large relative to the size of the estimate, the usefulness of that estimate is seriously impaired. The *relative standard error* (or SE%) is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate and provides an alternative expression for the accuracy of an estimate.

14. An example of the use of standard errors for the job vacancy estimates is as follows. Table 1 shows the estimated number of job vacancies for Australia at 15 May 1987 as being 53,800, with a standard error of 3,300. Therefore there are about two chances in three that a full enumeration would have given a figure in the range 50,500 to 57,100 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would be in the range 47,200 to 60,400.

Industry classification

15. Industry is classified according to the *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) 1983 Edition, Volume 1—The Classification* (1201.0).

Seasonal factors

16. Job vacancy figures at different dates may be affected by seasonal influences. Publication of seasonally adjusted figures will not be possible until results of surveys for several years are available.

Related publications

17. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

Information Paper: New Statistical Series: Employment, Average Weekly Earnings, Job Vacancies and Overtime (6256.0)

Overtime, Australia (6330.0)—issued quarterly

Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia (6302.0)—issued quarterly

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

18. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Unpublished statistics

19. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer print-out or clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the Inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- nil or rounded to zero
- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

20. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

21. VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. JOB VACANCIES(a) : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA
(' 000)

Industry	1986				1987		Standard error(b)
	21 Feb.	16 May	15 Aug.	21 Nov.	20 Feb.	15 May	
Manufacturing	12.3	10.5	11.0	10.5	14.8	14.3	1.8
Basic and fabricated metal products; other machinery, etc.;							
transport equipment	4.7	4.2	(c)5.6	4.0	7.4	6.9	1.3
Other manufacturing	7.6	(c)6.3	5.5	6.6	7.3	7.4	1.3
Non-manufacturing—							
Electricity, gas and water	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	—
Wholesale and retail trade	10.5	10.0	8.7	9.1	12.1	10.5	1.5
Transport and storage; communication	*	(c)1.9	1.3	(c)1.4	*	0.7	0.1
Public administration and defence(d)	4.0	4.9	4.1	4.6	4.3	3.4	0.3
Community services	14.2	10.8	13.0	13.7	15.5	12.1	0.9
Other(e)	14.5	15.8	10.1	12.1	13.9	12.4	2.1
Total all industries	59.0	54.4	48.6	51.9	62.7	53.8	3.3

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 10. (b) Applicable to latest estimates of level and quarterly movements. See paragraphs 11 to 14. (c) Relative standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. (d) Excludes permanent defence forces. (e) Includes Mining, Finance and business services, Recreation and personal services and Construction.

TABLE 2. TOTAL JOB VACANCIES(a), PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, STATES AND TERRITORIES
(' 000)

Reference date	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
PRIVATE SECTOR									
1986—									
21 February	14.6	13.2	(b)6.4	2.5	2.8	1.0	(b)0.5	*	41.8
16 May	13.1	13.3	(b)3.5	(b)1.7	(b)3.0	(b)0.8	(b)0.7	(b)0.8	36.9
15 August	10.0	9.9	(b)3.2	(b)3.7	(b)3.5	(b)0.4	*	*	32.0
21 November	13.1	9.4	(b)4.0	2.9	(b)3.0	*	*	*	34.2
1987—									
20 February	15.5	14.3	(b)4.4	3.4	(b)4.5	*	*	*	43.9
15 May	12.5	14.0	(b)2.8	(b)2.8	(b)4.1	*	(b)0.4	(b)0.3	37.8
Standard error(c)	1.9	2.3	0.6	0.8	0.8	*	0.1	0.1	3.2
PUBLIC SECTOR									
1986—									
21 February	7.3	3.8	1.6	0.7	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.6	17.2
16 May	8.0	3.5	1.1	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.5	1.9	17.5
15 August	8.6	3.0	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.2	1.6	16.6
21 November	8.6	3.3	1.3	0.5	1.2	0.4	0.4	1.8	17.7
1987—									
20 February	9.2	3.7	1.3	0.7	1.5	0.4	0.4	1.6	18.9
15 May	7.4	3.6	1.2	(b)0.7	1.4	0.3	(b)0.3	1.2	16.1
Standard error(c)	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	0.1	0.1	3.5
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS									
1986—									
21 February	21.9	17.0	8.0	3.2	3.9	1.6	1.0	2.4	59.0
16 May	21.1	16.8	4.6	2.6	4.1	1.3	1.1	2.7	54.4
15 August	18.6	12.9	4.4	(b)4.3	4.6	0.7	(b)0.7	2.4	48.6
21 November	21.7	12.8	5.3	3.4	4.3	(b)1.1	(b)1.1	2.1	51.9
1987—									
20 February	24.7	18.0	5.7	4.1	5.9	(b)1.4	0.7	2.1	62.7
15 May	19.9	17.6	4.0	(b)3.5	5.5	(b)1.0	(b)0.7	1.6	53.8
Standard error(c)	1.9	2.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	3.3

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 10. (b) Relative standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. (c) Applicable to latest estimates of level and quarterly movements. See paragraphs 11 to 14.

TABLE 3. JOB VACANCIES(a), MANUFACTURING, STATES AND TERRITORIES ('000)

Reference date	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1986—									
21 February	(b)3.6	6.0	(b)0.6	0.8	(b)1.0	0.1	*	(b)0.1	12.3
16 May	(b)3.3	(b)5.3	*	0.7	*	—	*	*	10.5
15 August	3.6	(b)5.5	*	(b)0.8	*	—	*	*	11.0
21 November	3.1	(b)4.7	(b)1.1	(b)0.7	*	*	—	—	10.5
1987—									
20 February	3.7	(b)7.6	(b)1.2	(b)1.1	*	*	—	*	14.8
15 May	4.5	(b)6.9	(b)0.8	0.5	*	*	*	*	14.3
Standard error(c)	0.8	1.6	0.2	0.1	*	*	*	*	1.8

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 10. (b) Relative standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. (c) Applicable to latest estimates of level and quarterly movements. See paragraphs 11 to 14.

TABLE 4. JOB VACANCY RATES(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES (per cent)

Reference date	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1986—									
21 February	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.9	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.1
16 May	1.1	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.9	2.1	2.1	1.0
15 August	1.0	0.9	(b)0.5	0.8	0.9	0.5	(b)1.3	1.9	0.9
21 November	1.1	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.9	(b)0.7	(b)2.0	1.7	0.9
1987—									
20 February	1.3	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.2	(b)1.0	1.4	1.7	1.1
15 May	1.1	1.2	0.5	(b)0.7	1.1	(b)0.7	1.5	1.3	1.1
Standard error(c)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 6 to 10. (b) Relative standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. (c) Applicable to latest estimates of level and quarterly movements. See paragraphs 11 to 14.

TABLE 5. JOB VACANCIES: TOTAL JOB VACANCIES AND THE NUMBER AND PROPORTION REGISTERED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (a), SECTOR AND INDUSTRY

	Number of job vacancies at the survey date				Proportion of total vacancies registered with the CES	
	Total		Registered with the CES		16 May 1986	15 May 1987
	16 May 1986	15 May 1987	16 May 1986	15 May 1987		
	—000—				—per cent—	
PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENT SECTOR VACANCIES						
Private	36.9	37.8	11.8	11.3	32.0	29.9
Government	17.5	16.1	3.4	2.4	19.2	15.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>54.4</i>	<i>53.8</i>	<i>15.2</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>25.4</i>
INDUSTRY VACANCIES						
Manufacturing	10.5	14.3	3.8	4.5	36.1	31.3
Basic and fabricated metal products; other machinery, etc.;						
transport equipment	4.2	6.9	1.5	2.4	36.9	35.0
Other manufacturing	(b)6.3	7.4	*	2.1	*	27.9
Non-manufacturing						
Electricity, gas and water	0.5	0.4	0.1	*	17.6	*
Wholesale and retail trade	10.0	10.5	4.6	3.8	45.9	36.7
Transport and storage; communication	(b)1.9	0.7	*	(b)0.1	*	15.4
Public administration and defence(c)	4.9	3.4	(b)1.3	(b)0.8	27.4	24.8
Community services	10.8	12.1	(b)1.6	*	15.3	*
Other (d)	15.8	12.4	(b)3.1	*	19.9	*
Total all industries	54.4	53.8	15.2	13.7	27.9	25.4

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 2 and 6 to 10. (b) Relative standard error greater than 20 per cent but less than 30 per cent. (c) Excludes permanent defence forces. (d) Includes Mining, Finance and business services, Recreation and personal services and Construction.